

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 04 APR 2005

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|--|---|--|-----------------------|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference  | FOR FURTHER ACTION  |  | See Form PCT/IPEA/416 |
| International application No.<br>PCT/AU2004/000348   | International filing date (day/month/year)<br>22 March 2004 | Priority date (day/month/year)<br>1 April 2003 |                       |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC<br>Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup> A61M 21/02 |   |  |                       |
| Applicant<br>CARBIS, Colin Richard et al   |   |  |                       |

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a.  (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 4 sheets, as follows:

sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b.  (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I | Basis of the report   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II           | Priority  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III          | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV           | Lack of unity of invention  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI           | Certain documents cited   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII          | Certain defects in the international application  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII         | Certain observations on the international application   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Date of submission of the demand<br>23 December 2004  | Date of completion of the report<br>17 March 2005                     |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU<br>AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE<br>PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA<br>E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au<br>Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929 | Authorized Officer<br><br>M.S. HAYNES<br>Telephone No. (02) 6283 2170 |

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000348

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1 (b))
- publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
- international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages 1-13 as originally filed/furnished

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

the claims:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages\* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages\* 14-17 received by this Authority on 23 December 2004 with the letter of 22 December 2004

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

the drawings:

pages 1-3 as originally filed/furnished

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages

the claims, Nos.

the drawings, sheets/figs

the sequence listing (*specify*):

any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

4.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages

the claims, Nos.

the drawings, sheets/figs

the sequence listing (*specify*):

any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000348

**Box No. V**      **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

|                               |             |     |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----|
| Novelty (N)                   | Claims 1-30 | YES |
|                               | Claims      | NO  |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Claims 1-30 | YES |
|                               | Claims      | NO  |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims 1-30 | YES |
|                               | Claims      | NO  |

**2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)****NOVELTY (N) AND INVENTIVE STEP (IS) Claims 1 -30**

The invention defined by the amended claims is a method of inducing hypnosis in a patient by placing the patient in either a partial or fully immersive virtual reality environment using verbal suggestion and visual images.

The closest art is WO 2000062850 A which discloses a method of treating a patient by immersing the patient in a virtual reality environment and attempting to calm and relax the patient. This is in contrast to the present claimed invention which uses verbal suggestion in combination with visual images to induce hypnosis in a patient.

Claims 1-30 are therefore novel and have inventive step and satisfy the requirements of PCT Articles 33(2) and Articles 33(3).

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**CLAIMS:**

1. A method for inducing hypnosis in a patient in a partially immersive virtual reality environment comprising subjecting said patient to verbal suggestion and visual images shown by a two or three dimensional display device.
2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising subjecting said patient to additional auditory stimuli.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the two or three dimensional display device is a wide field-of-view display.
4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the wide field-of-view display is a projection screen.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the two or three dimensional display device is a head mounted display.
6. A method for inducing hypnosis in a patient in a fully immersive virtual reality environment comprising subjecting said patient to verbal suggestion and visual images shown by a two or three dimensional display device.
7. A method according to claim 6 further comprising subjecting said patient to additional auditory stimuli.
8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the two or three dimensional display device is a wide field-of-view display.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the wide field-of-view display is a projection screen.

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10. A method according to claim 6 wherein the two or three dimensional display device is a head mounted display.
11. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of a psychosomatic disease in a human.
12. Use according to claim 11 wherein the psychosomatic disease is irritable bowel syndrome, herpes simplex, headache or stomach cramps.
13. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of a somatic disease in a human.
14. Use according to claim 13 wherein the somatic disease is irritable bowel disease, arthritis, multiple sclerosis or cancer.
15. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of a behavioural disorder in a human.
16. Use according to claim 15 wherein the behavioural disorder is attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, post trauma distress disorder, postnatal depression, bulimia or obesity.
17. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of a phobia in a human.
18. Use according to claim 17 wherein the phobia is fear of dogs, spiders, snakes, flying, heights or ships.
19. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in palliative care.
20. Use according to claim 19 wherein the palliative care is used to treat grief or fear of

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death.

21. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of trauma or physical injury in humans.
22. Use according to claim 21 wherein the trauma or physical injury is burns, post surgical wounds, puncture wounds or ulcers.
23. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of mood disorders in humans.
24. Use according to claim 23 wherein the mood disorder is anxiety, panic disorders or depression.
25. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 in the treatment of and/or management of pain in humans.
26. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 with or without chemical agents in anaesthetizing a human for surgical procedures.
27. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 to alleviate boredom.
28. Use of hypnosis induced in accordance with the method of claim 1 or 6 with or without chemical agents to assist with childbirth.
29. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 to improve skill development in sport, work or any other physical endeavour.
30. Use of hypnosis induced according to the method of claim 1 or 6 to motivate humans involved in sport, work, war or any other endeavour that requires motivational

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modification.